

No 2 race: Zaid outlines seven 'requests'
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PKR deputy presidency aspirant Zaid Ibrahim today hinted that his decision to contest the party polls was not yet cast in stone.

In an open letter to PKR election committee chief Dr Molly Cheah, Zaid outlined seven 'requests' for the committee which he said will influence his final decision.

"I hope that these requests can be approved immediately. This will ease my decision on whether to accept nominations," he said in the letter that was reproduced on his blog.

The requests were mostly on procedural matters including suggestions for transparent ballot boxes and ballot slips with serial numbers.

Other requests included the appointment of representatives by candidates as polling and counting agents and who will be required to sign voting result slips.

Zaid (*left*) also requested that a proper electoral roll be prepared to ensure that the electoral list held by the candidates tallied with those of the election committee.

"The voting time must also be followed strictly and election officers cannot shorten or extend voting time. For new members who renewed their membership during voting day, they should be allowed into the electoral roll," he said.

Zaid said that since he has been nominated for several positions, he was now urging the committee to implement these requests to ensure a fair contest.

He said that this was necessary in view of the 'chaos' during polling at the division level which began during the middle of last month.

Get house in order before hitting EC

He said that in some instances, election officers were 'clearly biased' towards certain groups and there were also cases of an insufficient number election officers resulting in supporters of certain candidates being roped in as assistants.

Other examples, claimed Zaid, were instances of irregularities in the electoral roll, pre-marked ballot papers, an excess number of ballots compared to those present and the absence of candidate-appointed scrutineers during the counting process.

"Our party must be able to fulfil the minimum standards set by the Election Commission. If not, it is difficult for us to push the commission to fulfil international standards," Zaid concluded in his letter.

Zaid, who initially pledged to stay out of the party elections, has joined the race for the party deputy presidency.

He and several allies have been constantly claiming that there was a conspiracy to undermine his campaign and that he was a target of smear attacks.

PKR's leadership has denied Zaid's accusations and have pointed out that an overwhelming number of PKR divisions have held their annual general meetings and elections smoothly.

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